DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

RECEIVED
JUL 19 2019

JUL 15 2019

Executive Office

Mr. Drew Bartlett
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406-3007

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

This letter is in response to your July 3, 2019 letter regarding Pre-Partnership Credit Agreements (PPCAs) for the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) acknowledges the importance of the CEPP to restoring the Everglades and reducing discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries, and we are committed to working with the State of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to implement the CEPP in a timely manner.

As you identified in your letter, our teams have worked to develop PPCAs for CEPP South and North that are acceptable to both the SFWMD and the Corps. The scope of work for the PPCAs is consistent with the scope of the CEPP plan authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016. We are finalizing these PPCAs and anticipate execution of the PPCAs in September 2019.

With regards to the PPCA including work for CEPP New Water, we are continuing discussions within the Corps on the scope of the PPCA and confirming what CEPP New Water activities we can support in a PPCA. Currently, we can support a PPCA for the CEPP New Water that includes only work that would be required for implementation of features authorized by Section 1401 of WRDA 2016. Section 1308 of WRDA 2018 authorized the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Central and Southern Florida, Everglades Agricultural Area, Florida, to be carried out in accordance with Section 601 of WRDA 2000, as recommended in the addendum to the Central Everglades Planning Project Post Authorization Change Report, Feasibility Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the South Florida Water Management District and dated May 2018, with such modifications as the Secretary considers appropriate. WRDA 2018 directs that the project authorized in WRDA 2018 may be constructed only after the Secretary prepares a report that addresses the concerns, recommendations, and conditions identified by the Secretary in the review assessment titled "Review Assessment of South Florida Water Management District's Central Everglades Planning Project, Section 203 Post Authorization Change Report, Integrated Feasibility Study and DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement (March 2018,

Amended May 2018)" and dated May 2018. We are currently completing this report and expect to complete the report by May 2020. Accordingly, pending completion of the Secretary's report, we will continue to work with your team to develop the PPCA that includes only work authorized in WRDA 2016. Upon completion of the Secretary's report, we may pursue another PPCA consistent with that report.

I look forward to our continued partnership to restore America's Everglades. If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Howie Gonzales, Program Manager, at (904) 232-2299 or by e-mail at howard.h.gonzales@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

KELLY.ANDREW.DONALD.JR.1025510875

Digitally signed by KELLY.ANDREW.DONALD.JR.1025510875
Date: 2019.07.15 17:17:02 -04'00'

Andrew D. Kelly, Jr.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander